Supply of Inferior Bandages to Safdarjung Hospital

691. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two firms made Rs. 40 lakhs by supplying inferior bandages to Safdarjung hospital, as reported in Indian Express on May 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the action initiated against those firms;

(c) whether Government would take enough precautionary measures not to allow such type of inferior bandage supply to hospitals all over the country; and

(d) whether it concerns the health and well-being of the poorest of the poor who take advantage of Government hospitals; if so, whether Government would see to it that at the cost of their health no firm cheats the National Exchequer in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation has informed that they have registered two cases against the two firms and some officials of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. CBI is investigating the matter further. Safdarjung Hospital has stopped the purchase from these two firms and payment of previous supply made by the firms has been stopped.

(c) The following precautionary measures are adopted in Central Government Hospitals to prevent the supply of such material:—

(i) The material is tested in two different Government Laboratories for quality control.

(ii) Inspection is done by a duly constituted Committee before acceptance and use.

(iii) The verification for the weight of the material is undertaken.

Health is a State subject under the Constitution and it is the

responsibility of respective States/Union Territories to take precautionary measures to prevent the supply of inferior bandages in the hospitals under their administrative control.

(d) The Central Government Hospitals are vigilant in this matter.

Reduction in seats for Ayurvedic Doctors in Gujarat

692. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ayurvedic doctors' seats reduced in Ayurvedic colleges by the Central Council of India for the last two years till date, State-wise;

(b) whether Gujarat is number one in Ayurveda in India;

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing a large number of seats there; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to restore the seats in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(b) Ayurveda as medical system is actively practiced in several states in the country including Gujarat State.

(c) The college did not meet the minimum standards set out by the Central Council of Indian Medicine including availability of teachers.

(d) The seats in Gujarat have since been restored from academic year 2000-2001.